



September 19, 2006

**SUBJECT: Authorization to Apply for Corrections Standards Authority,
Title II Formula Grant Funding****REPORT IN BRIEF**

The Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety is seeking Council approval to apply for a Title II Formula Grant in an amount up to \$500,000 from the Corrections Standards Authority to fund a Girls Program in cooperation with the Columbia Neighborhood Center in accordance with the grants Program Purpose Area 13: Gender-Specific Services. Staff has discussed the options provided by the grant and has determined that this would be an ideal opportunity to establish a pilot program with these funds to support the target population of young girls of middle school age to provide them with young life skills including: self esteem, decision making, nutrition and physical activity, self defense, communication strategies and peer pressure awareness.

BACKGROUND

The Title II Formula Grants program supports state and local delinquency prevention and intervention efforts and juvenile justice system improvements. The Corrections Standards Authority (CSA) will award up to \$7 million in one-year grants, with the possibility of two additional years of funding, to qualified units of local governments and non-profits.

Staff from Public Safety and The Columbia Neighborhood Center met and discussed this opportunity. Staff sees this grant as an opportunity to serve a vulnerable group of young women at a crucial time in their personal development. Staff believes that this supportive program will help them build a strong foundation before they enter into high school and will help prevent delinquency.

The grant applications are due to the Corrections Standards Authority by October 17, 2006.

EXISTING POLICY

Action Statement 4.1D.2b: Develop proposals and apply for appropriate governmental grants.

Action Statement 4.1A.4b: Continue and enhance programs designed to reinforce positive juvenile behavior and prevent juvenile delinquency.

Action Statement 4.1A.4g: Provide early intervention through education of youth, families, school staff, and other community member on gang recognition and prevention.

DISCUSSION

Public Safety received notification from the CSA encouraging a grant application for a Title II Formula Grant to fund a one year program, beginning April 1, 2007, with the possibility of an additional two years of funding to address one or more of the following purpose areas:

Aftercare Services: Programs to prepare juvenile offenders to successfully return to their communities after serving a period of secure confinement in a training school, juvenile correctional facility or other secure institution.

Gangs: Programs, research, or other initiatives designed primarily to address issues related to juvenile gang activity.

Gender-Specific Services: Services designed to address needs unique to gender of the individual to whom such services are provided.

Mental Health Services: Services include but are not limited to, the development and or enhancement of diagnosis, treatment, and/or prevention instruments; psychological and psychiatric evaluations; counseling services; and/or family support services.

Substance Abuse: Programs, research, or other activities designed to address the use or abuse of illegal and other prescription and non prescription drugs and the use and abuse of alcohol.

While each of the program areas could have an impact on a target group of Sunnyvale youth, staff believes that this opportunity to create a program and curriculum specifically for middle school girls is one that will have a long term positive effect on our young women as they enter into high school and college. By giving them an opportunity to learn valuable skills so when faced with difficult decisions such as gang involvement, drug and alcohol use, crime and violence they will have the self confidence and foundation necessary to make the right choices.

The proposal is still in the early stages of development. The initial program design will focus on girls in the Columbia Neighborhood area. The program grant cap is \$500,000 per program; staff may apply for up to the maximum amount. Staff does not want to establish a program that will exceed our internal capacity and it will be our goal to sustain this program, at least in part, provided there are good results. While preparing the grant, staff will take all operating costs into consideration so that the program remains cost neutral.

FISCAL IMPACT

In conjunction with the Department of Finance, Public Safety will establish a new cost neutral project in the General Fund to receive and expend the Title II Formula Grant funds.

CONCLUSION

The opportunity to establish a program and curriculum designed to provide middle school girls with young life skills will have a long term benefit that will be felt by many. To keep them engaged in positive activities, provide them with a safe place to learn and grow as young women, and encourage them to make good choices will make them better members of our community. Acceptance of this grant funding if offered, will allow Public Safety and Columbia Neighborhood Center to start working with young women toward a stronger and more positive future.

PUBLIC CONTACT

Public contact was made through posting of the Council agenda on the City's official notice bulletin board, posting of the agenda and report on the City's web page, and the availability of the report in the Library and Office of the City Clerk.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Allow the Department of Public Safety to proceed with the Title II Formula Grant application.
2. Do not allow the Department of Public Safety to proceed with the Title II Formula Grant application.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends alternative 1.

Reviewed by:

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Reviewed by:

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Reviewed by:

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Approved by:

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Attachments

None